



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Boston Public Library

7
8
ADDRESS

OF

The Trustees

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL,

TO THE

SUBSCRIBERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE two branches of the Massachusetts General Hospital being now completely organized, both having received patients for some time, and all those who have had occasion, either from motives of curiosity and benevolence, or of official duty, to inquire into their situation, being well satisfied of their great utility and future success, it appears to be due to the numerous body of subscribers who have contributed towards its establishment with a remarkable cheerfulness and liberality, and equally due to the government of this state, which has manifested concerning the Hospital a munificence unequalled in the public acts of this Commonwealth, that a short account of the origin, progress, and present condition of the Institution, should be now prepared and made public. This duty

is also imposed in some degree, upon the Trustees, at the present time, by the rules and regulations which have been recently adopted for the government of the Institution.

Towards the end of the last century, a gentleman died in this town, leaving in a codicil to his will, dated April 18, 1797, a bequest in the following words: "I give to the town of Boston five thousand dollars towards the building of a Hospital, and direct my executors to pay the same to any person or persons, whom the town shall appoint to receive the same, as soon as they shall determine to begin the work." Separate from this circumstance, which was however, attended with the beneficial effect of immediately awakening the attention of the public to this important subject, there could have been no doubt in the minds of benevolent and enlightened men, of the utility, nay, absolute necessity, of a charitable establishment for the relief of the sick, in that part of these United States, of which Boston has always been justly considered the parent town; and which contained at the time to which we allude, 1,471,973 inhabitants—more especially as a Hospital had been founded in Pennsylvania as early as 1752, and another in New York in 1771. Both these establishments received great aid from government—The last named Hospital, to the amount of \$120,000. But owing to the nature of public institutions in this part of the country, it became necessary that individuals should here undertake that great work, which in some nations of the old world has been done by government, and in others by religion. As early as August, 1810, two Physicians living in this town, addressed a circular letter, in which the advantages of a Hospital were stated with force and justness, to several gentlemen of Boston, possessed of ample fortunes and disposed to contribute to institutions in which the public good was concerned. This effort was not followed by an immediate success; but it would be injustice to the zeal and perseverance which these two gentlemen have constantly displayed

in this cause, not to state, that, in consequence of their exertions and representations, the steady and powerful support and contributions of many respectable and wealthy individuals, were at that time secured, and even pledged to the accomplishment of this great work. In the beginning of the next year, fifty six gentlemen, living in different parts of the Commonwealth, were incorporated by the name of the Massachusetts General Hospital. This charter, in addition to the valuable grant made the Hospital, is another evidence of the high sense that the Legislature entertained of the value of this undertaking, and of the kindness and generosity with which they were disposed to cherish and protect it. It allowed the corporation to hold real and personal property to the amount of \$30,000 yearly income. It granted to the Hospital a fee simple in the estate of the old Province House, upon condition as enacted in a subsequent law, that 100,000 dollars should be raised by subscription within ten years—It constituted the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the two Chaplains of the Legislature, a Board of Visitors, with power to visit semi-annually, or whenever they should think it expedient. The corporation was, moreover, authorized to change its present name to that of any benefactor who should contribute a sum, exceeding the amount given by the Commonwealth, or to add the name of that benefactor who should contribute a sum equal to the amount given by the Commonwealth.

The first meeting of the corporation was held in the spring of the same year, when a system of by-laws was adopted for the government of the Institution; but Trustees were not chosen before the month of February, 1813. This country was at that time in a state of distress and embarrassment, in consequence of the foreign relations of the Federal Government; and though the Trustees were at all times diligent and watchful, they forbore collecting subscriptions and donations from the public, before the autumn of 1816,

being well satisfied that none but the most peaceful and prosperous times should be selected for the commencement of an Institution which, though in itself recommended by the strongest considerations of utility and benevolence, nevertheless required large contributions from individuals, and would probably encounter that opposition and appearance of jealousy in some portion of the community, that generally accompany all new undertakings of much magnitude.

The subscription was attended with uncommon success, and is perhaps, the most remarkable evidence of liberality and public spirit, upon record in this part of the country. One thousand and forty seven individuals subscribed, either to the Hospital, or the Insane Asylum, (many subscriptions were received for both,) in Boston, Salem, Plymouth, Charlestown, Hingham, and Chelsea, including a few subscriptions in some other towns; and of this number, two hundred and forty five contributed to the amount of one hundred dollars and above that sum—the sum required by the by-laws, to constitute a member of the corporation.

It has not been customary upon these occasions to allude with much emphasis to individuals, but this opportunity of offering a slight acknowledgment of the gratitude of the corporation could not be passed by without doing an evident injury to the feelings of those gentlemen who are well acquainted with the nature of the donations and subscriptions. It would also betray an unbecoming insensibility to the generosity and great public spirit which were manifested for the Hospital at this time, by all classes of citizens; and it would deprive the community at large, of the value and benefit of these truly precious and meritorious examples. A legacy of five thousand dollars was at once increased to twenty thousand, by a gentleman, who has inherited the great virtues of that liberal benefactor, whom we have mentioned in the beginning of this address. Another gentleman, who has endowed a rich and valuable professorship in the University at Cambridge, bequeathed ten thousand

dollars to the Insane Asylum. A subscription of five thousand dollars was received from the Humane Society of Massachusetts—three gentlemen of this town, also contributed each the same sum—one gentleman, who has lately died, bequeathed a house to the value of six thousand dollars; and another gentleman, the reversion of an estate, supposed to be worth twenty thousand dollars. The widow is now in the enjoyment of the income of it. Indeed the Trustees are so deeply impressed with the munificent spirit which the public has manifested concerning this Institution, that they propose at some future time to publish a list of the subscribers.

In 1816, the Trustees purchased the estate at Charlestown, belonging to the late Mr. Barrell, commonly called Poplar Grove, and have there built two brick houses, besides the necessary out houses. In 1817, the Trustees purchased four acres, in a field at the west end of Boston, called Prince's Pasture, and on the 4th day of July, 1818, the Corner Stone of the present Hospital was there laid, by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in this Commonwealth, in the presence of the Governor, the Lieut. Governor, the several Humane and Charitable Societies, of the Clergy, of many persons of great dignity in public life, and of a numerous assemblage of citizens. This building was so far completed on the first of September 1821 as to be in a fit condition to receive patients.

The Hospital, now entirely finished with the exception of the interior of one wing, stands on a small eminence, at the most westerly part of Boston, open to the south, east, and west. The beautiful hills which surround Boston, are well seen from every part of the building, and the grounds on the south are washed by the waters of the bay. These grounds will be laid out into walks and gardens, as soon as the state of the funds will permit, for the purposes of amusement and exercise to the patients; in which will be included a small kitchen garden, also for relaxation, and plea-

sing and healthful occupation. In the centre, are the rooms for the Superintendent, the Apothecary, attendants, and the kitchen. In the upper part of the centre is also the operating theatre. The wings are divided into apartments for patients; those of the males being distinct from the females. The stair cases and entries are of stone. The apartments are supplied with heat by pipes from a furnace in the cellar—They are also supplied with water, by pipes running by the side of the air flues, in order to prevent freezing in winter. The Hospital is under the immediate care of the Superintendent, and it is visited and examined by a Committee of the Trustees, every Thursday. There is also a stated meeting of the Trustees, every fortnight, in the Hospital, on the general concerns of the Institution. The Physician and Surgeon, independent of their regular duties in the Hospital, will give advice to out patients, to whom medicines will also be distributed gratuitously. The Physician, Dr. Jackson, attends for this purpose, at the Hospital, on Thursdays, at 12 o'clock, and the Surgeon, Dr. Warren, at the same hour on Tuesdays and Fridays. On the latter day, persons affected with disorders in the eyes, will particularly receive medical advice.

The method of obtaining admission into the Hospital is as follows:

Application for admission, in writing, mentioning the place of residence of the patient, must be left at the Hospital. Upon the receipt of this application, the Physician or Surgeon will visit such patient, if residing in Boston; and if the patient is free from a contagious disorder, and is a fit subject for the Hospital, a certificate of admission will be granted. If such patient does not reside in Boston, the application must be accompanied with a certificate from a respectable Physician, stating that the patient is free from contagious disorder, &c. The application of the patient and the certificate of the Physician will be laid before the Visiting Committee, at their stated meeting on Thurs-

day. They will then fix the rate of board, which in the present state of the funds, cannot be less than three dollars a week; but such rate shall always be as low as the funds will permit; and the Committee will also prescribe what security shall be given for the payment of the same. The sum fixed, will include medicines, medical attendance, nursing, food, and every other expense.

In case of accidents in the streets, or elsewhere, or of sudden disease, the Hospital will be open for the receiving of patients, without delay, both day and night, and no written application will be required. A Trustee, or the Physician, or Surgeon may, at any time, dispense with the written application, and cause any patient to be admitted by an order. The Hospital is also open to strangers and persons from all parts of the Commonwealth, who will receive all possible attention, at a rate of board as low as the funds will permit.

The Trustees will here introduce a report from the Physician, Dr. Jackson, and another from the Surgeon, Dr. Warren, concerning the state of the Hospital, in their respective departments.

To the Trustees of the Mass. Gen. Hospital.

GENTLEMEN.....In making a report respecting the patients, who have been admitted under the care of the Physician in the Massachusetts General Hospital during the six months since it was opened, a few prefatory remarks may not be deemed improper.

The patients in a Hospital can never fairly be compared with an equal number of patients under the private care of a Physician. It will never happen that patients will resort to a Hospital for every trifling complaint. The Hospital cases will always consist in a great proportion of grave, aggravated and protracted diseases; of many, which have resisted remedies under the disadvantages, to which the sick are often exposed, and which have been increased by the want of care

arising from poverty and negligence. These remarks must always apply with peculiar force to a general Hospital, when first opened for the reception of the sick. Such an institution, indeed, offers great advantages to persons in the first stages of disease; because it affords them at once, rest and freedom from care, with accommodations, which even money will not always command immediately, for strangers and persons not in their own houses. But the healthy do not think of these advantages; and persons who are taken sick do not realize the importance of them, until after painful experience. It is only after a Hospital has been long established, that such patients will often enter it in the first days of their sickness.

It has happened accordingly, that among the few patients received into the Massachusetts General Hospital, since the first of September, 1821, there have been more cases of difficult and rare disease than occur in the private practice of a Physician in extensive business during a year.

An exhibition of the number of patients and the result of the treatment of them, since the Hospital was opened, might produce impressions less favorable than would be just, if the circumstances above stated were not duly estimated.

On the other hand it is true, that in a Hospital there are advantages in the treatment of the sick, which are not often enjoyed in private practice. Under the liberal arrangements of our Hospital, in which the welfare of the patients is the only object, I have realized the advantages to be greater even than I had anticipated. Accordingly, obstinate diseases have yielded more readily than I have commonly found them to do in private practice. How true this is can be judged only by Physicians of experience, when made acquainted with the facts.

I now proceed to give a statement of the cases, which have been under my care during the last six months, that is, since the Hospital was opened for the reception of the sick.

There has been one case of cough and difficulty of breathing, arising from *aneurism of the aorta*. The patient, when he entered the Hospital and for some time afterwards, was incapable of any exertion, such especially as walking up stairs, without great difficulty of breathing. The aneurism of the aorta is an incurable complaint. But the disease was so far relieved that the patient was well, to common observation, nearly a month before he was discharged. This case has terminated in sudden death since the patient left us. This issue was inevitable; but it would probably have occurred much earlier without the relief, which the Hospital afforded.

There has been one case of a peculiar spasmodic affection in a respectable female, from the country. The disease had existed for two years. The patient suffered much distress at night, preventing her from getting sleep, and was unable to walk with ease, or to use her hands about any work. During four weeks her disease was very much diminished, so that she as well as myself was very greatly encouraged. Unfortunately she was obliged to return to her friends at the expiration of this period. She did so, full of gratitude for the benefits she had experienced.

There have been two patients affected with *chronic diarrhœa*. One of these contracted this obstinate disease the year before in the East Indies, and was exceedingly reduced. At the end of two or three weeks after he was admitted, the disease was beginning to yield; but his pecuniary means were insufficient to permit him to remain in the Hospital, and he was discharged at his own request, though with great reluctance on his part and on mine. At that time, there was not a single bed allotted to poor patients.

The other patient under this disease was also threatened with pulmonary consumption. He was relieved in one week, and discharged without any symptom of disease, in less than three weeks. His disease had existed for several months, and he had been under the care of a respectable Physician, but

without the advantages, which the Hospital affords. His case illustrated very strongly the amount of those advantages.

One case of very obstinate secondary *syphilis*, of long standing, has been cured. Another case of the same description, in which caries of the bones had taken place, under which the patient had been greatly reduced, has yielded in a good measure, and the general health of the unfortunate sufferer has much improved. A third case of the same kind has been recently admitted, and is now yielding very kindly.

Two patients have been admitted, with acute *bronchitis*, a kind of inflammation of the lungs. In both of them the disease was severe and already well established. The first, a female, had lost her voice and was affected with a distressing cough. She was discharged well in ten days. The second has been received within six days. From the circumstances, under which he had been placed, his disease had assumed a most unfavorable character, so that at first I nearly despaired of his recovery. A respectable Physician, who had seen him in consultation out of the Hospital, had declared his case desperate. In forty eight hours after his admission he was out of danger and is now, in six days, nearly well. The great amendment in this case was produced most obviously by the removal of the patient from a small chamber in a filthy boarding house to the pure air and clean apartments of the Hospital.

There has been one severe case of acute *hysteritis*, (inflammation of the *uterus*) the subject of which was completely relieved and discharged well in five days.

Besides the three cases already mentioned, as remaining in the Hospital, there are six others now under my care.

The first of these is a case, which has never been described by medical writers, but which my own previous observations had made me acquainted with. It is marked by a very painful affection of the extremities, an inability of using them freely, and some other

symptoms. It is induced by indulgence in the use of ardent spirits, and is commonly fatal. The restraint upon this indulgence, which the Hospital has enabled us to exercise, and to which the patient has willingly submitted, with the remedies employed, has relieved the sufferings entirely, and the limbs are recovering their power. In a few weeks more, I trust that the patient may return to his usual employment.

The second is a case of *diabetes*. This disease, not a case of the worst description, has subsided, and the patient is nearly strong enough to return to his labors.

The third and fourth are cases of *pulmonary consumption*. One of these is of two years duration, and is of the worst kind. The patient must shortly die. The other, though nearly of the same duration, is not of so bad a character, and some hopes may be entertained of a recovery.

The fifth is a case of *hypochondriasis*, of a very obstinate character, and has recently been admitted.

The sixth is also a case recently admitted, though the disease is of long standing. It is a very severe case of *lepra vulgaris* (leprosy,) in which the skin of almost every part of the body is affected.

It is not proper to close this account, without mentioning the only case which has terminated fatally, under my care in the Hospital. This was a very severe case of *lung fever*. The patient was in great suffering, and in the last stage of the disease, when admitted. I saw him only once. He died in twelve hours after he entered the house.

As I understand that the object of the Trustees at this time is, to ascertain the advantages, which experience has shewn to exist in the Hospital, I have made this detailed report of the cases which have been under my care. A mere table of cases, with the times of admission, discharge, &c. would not have answered the purpose in view. In displaying the benefits, which the patients have derived from the Institution, I am sure that I shall not be suspected of the desire to exhibit my own treatment of them to advantage. My

object has been to show, what I am convinced is true, that the benefits of the Hospital arise from the proper application and use of remedies, and from a due regulation of the patients. These benefits, without any fault of the patient, are oftentimes unattainable in the same degree, in private practice.

I am, &c.

JAMES JACKSON.

BOSTON, MARCH 6, 1822.

To the Trustees of the Mass. Gen. Hospital.

GENTLEMEN.....Having been requested to give an account of the surgical cases, which have come under my care in the Hospital, I have the honor to lay before you the following statement. Some of these cases are of such a nature, as not to admit of a distinct explanation in a public report. If therefore, any one should not appear to be stated with sufficient clearness, you will attribute the obscurity to the peculiarity of the disorder.

Since the Hospital has been opened, for the admission of patients, three *capital operations* have been performed there and four of inferior importance.

Of the former description, the first was the operation for *Lithotomy*. The patient recovered, and has returned in safety to his friends.

The second, was the operation for *Popliteal Aneurisin*. The disease consists in an enlargement of the great artery of the ham, attended with violent pain; and if left to itself, it ultimately proves fatal, either by the bursting of the diseased artery, or the mortification of the limb. The subject was an industrious female belonging to Boston. The operation for this disease was performed soon after the patient entered the Hospital. The event was favorable, and she has since been able to resume her former occupations.

The third capital operation was rendered necessary in consequence of an accident. This patient had his leg crushed by the fall of a cart. His constitution was impaired by the use of ardent spirits, and when he was brought to the Hospital, he was in a state of delirium. The limb mortified, the broken bones were exposed, and after various efforts to relieve him without removing the limb, it was thought necessary to take the opinion of the Consulting Physicians. These gentlemen agreed that the prospect of saving the patient's life was extremely small; but that it would be impossible to save the limb. In order to afford him some chance for recovery, they advised the amputation of the part. This operation was performed; and for some days the appearance of the patient was improved; but being upwards of 60 years old and with a broken constitution, in about a week or ten days after he sunk from debility.

Of the second description of operations, the first performed was, that for *Prolapsus Ani*. The patient had suffered greatly for a number of years. The disease being removed, he was immediately relieved. Having also a stricture of the rectum, this disorder was treated and so far subdued, as to enable the patient to manage the applications necessary to prevent the complaint from becoming dangerous.

The second was for *Fistula*. The patient was thoroughly cured.

Third. *Phymosis*. The patient has recovered and is under treatment for another disorder.

Fourth. Extraction of a *Tumour*, or *Wen* from the neck. The wound nearly healed by the first dressing; and the patient went home in a few days after.

Three cases of fractures have been received, besides that which required amputation. The subject of the first, was a domestic, who had broken her leg by a fall on the ice. In about three weeks, the bones had united, and in four, she was able to walk.

Second. Fracture of the thigh, with compound fracture of the leg in the same limb. This case was

managed according to the plan of Desault, by the machine improved by Dr. Flagg of Boston. The cure was rapid. On the 17th day, the thigh bone had united—By the 24th the bones of the leg were firm, and the wound in the flesh was healed. The limb retained its natural length, and was free from distortion or deformity.

The third case of fracture, was brought in on the 8th of March. The accident occurred four days previous. The patient has been in a state of delirium since; and while at home, got out of bed, and attempted to walk on the broken limb. In consequence of this, the whole leg is deeply discolored, the skin torn off, and the appearances such as to threaten mortification and abscesses throughout the leg. The patient's constitution being bad, it is scarcely to be expected that he can recover.

A person came to the Hospital for the purpose of having some effort made to restore a dislocation of the hip joint. He had met with this accident three months before; and there being, in such cases, no probability, nor scarcely possibility, of reducing the bone, he was told that his case was past the reach of surgical aid; but that if he desired, he might have efforts made with a view to give him a fair trial for the restoration of his limb. The most powerful means were employed for this purpose: the success was no better than what had been expected and promised. He left the Hospital in the same state in which he entered it.

Of two cases of *Structure of the Urethra*, one has been greatly relieved, the other continues under treatment. The subject of the first was compelled to leave the Hospital before he was entirely cured for want of money. He was however in a state of comfort compared to that he had before been in; and he received such instructions as would enable him to prosecute the treatment, under the care of his Physician, at a distance from Boston. The patient remaining has been tormented for a great number of years; being advanced in life, and his complaint of long standing and long

neglected, there is no probability that we shall be able to subdue a disorder, which at an earlier stage might have been cured with certainty.

In a long continued case of *Hernia Humoralis*, the patient was so much relieved as to be able to resume his business. His anxiety to avoid expense led him to quit the place before he was wholly cured.

Injury of the Spine, occasioned by the fall of a bank of earth. The subject was severely injured, and fears were entertained of an incurable hurt of the spinal marrow. He however recovered perfectly.

There is now in the Hospital a patient affected with an ulcerated foot, which has been a source of great suffering for the last two years, and frequently has prevented her pursuing those labors on which her subsistence depended. Since she has been here, the disease has assumed a favorable appearance, and by following the treatment to which she is now subjected, there is no doubt of a thorough and permanent cure.

The following diseases in the eyes are also still under treatment. An orphan child, of eleven years old, affected with an eruption on the face, extending to the eyes, and producing blindness and great suffering. She has been five years in this state. Her face, since her treatment in the Hospital, has become clear, her eyes are free from pain, and bear some use; and we have reason to hope she will be soon free from complaint, and able to undertake some useful labor.

The other has been affected with *Iritis*, a deep seated inflammation of the eye, accompanied with intense pain, and an entire inability of using the eyes or supporting the light. At the time of his admission, his eyes were on the point of perishing. In a few days after he had begun the proper treatment, his pains left him, his sight is now restored, and in no long time he will be free from disease.

There is also at present in the Hospital, a patient who had both feet frozen during the severe cold weather in January. The dead parts have been removed, that portion of the feet which remains has a

healthy action, and will ultimately heal, though by a very slow process.

The above statement comprehends, I believe, all the cases, favorable and unfavorable, which have been under surgical treatment in the Hospital. I have only to add, that the advantages for the treatment of these cases have been much greater than the patients would have obtained in private houses, and that the cures have generally been more rapid than they could have been had the patients not entered the Hospital.

I am, &c.

J. C. WARREN.

BOSTON, MARCH 10, 1822.

We entreat all those into whose hands this address may fall, to reflect well upon the advantages which this Institution offers—more especially we appeal to those, who, like some of us, are not altogether unacquainted with sights of sickness and suffering amongst the poorer classes. We beg all to consider what misery is daily experienced from the want of room and attendance, and from bad air and food; and how little those can be prepared for sickness, who even in good health and with constant labor, are just able to earn a tolerable subsistence for their families. Again, we ask those who are led by duty or humanity to visit the sick, what is the condition of poor persons, when overtaken by sudden and painful diseases, or afflicted with tedious and uncertain ones? What, under such circumstances, is the situation of their wives and children, and what means have their families of nursing and supplying them with proper food and medicines? They surely cannot be ignorant that whether the poor man escapes by death, from the sight of those calamities which he has brought upon his unhappy family, or whether he lives on through disease and despair, to witness and partake in them, one single fit of sickness, even if it does not utterly ruin him, commonly gives him a check from which he seldom recovers during

his whole life; and the evil effects of which are seen to the last hour in the poverty or perhaps the vice and depravity of his wife and children. Ask the numerous Charitable Societies in this town, that distribute food, wood, clothes, and medicines, what principally makes the poor—is it imprudence?—is it want of labor?—is it dearness of the necessaries of life? No—it is sickness. Ask the members of the Howard Benevolent Society, who personally visit the sick, and who have not assumed that name for fashionable and ostentatious purposes. They will tell you—it is sickness. They who lived in the early ages of our religion, well knew this; and one of their most blessed cares, as well as highest christian virtues, was to found Hospitals for the sick, a description of public charity unknown to heathen or pagan nations. We feel well assured that sickness, at least in this part of our country, is the principal cause of poverty, and often of much worse consequences. Where then shall the poor sick amongst us go? The Alms House was not intended for them; and though at this time possessing no accommodations whatever, it is usually encumbered with at least fifty patients—the Dispensary furnishes only medicine and medical attendance. We offer to you then the Hospital; and we cannot deceive ourselves when we say that you will find there clean apartments, well heated and well aired; kind nurses, whose only duty and occupation it is to watch and provide for the sick; proper and nourishing food; rest and tranquility; and a removal from those sights of distress, poverty and despair, in the midst of which a poor man's wife and children are suffering and sinking, which always make his sickness so cruel and severe, and his cure so tedious, uncertain and expensive. In the Hospital there is no family deranged and thrown into distress and confusion, when any of their number happens to fall sick—no patient waiting in wretchedness till physicians, or medicine, or nurses, can be found, harrassed and disturbed by the noise and bustle of his house, and the anxiety and ignorance and concern of those about him.

On the contrary, physicians, nurses, medicines, and food, are ready at any moment, night and day. In private houses it is often impossible, from a great variety of causes, to procure for a patient a suitable kind of food, and to confine him to the exclusive use of it; but in the Hospital it is obvious that any kind of food can be furnished, and as the patient is constantly in the presence of his nurses, it is out of his power to deviate from it.

For one moment more we entreat your attention to a class of persons whose importance in society, independent of all considerations of humanity, lays a moral obligation upon every good man to use his endeavors to encourage and protect them. We are about to speak of those young men in this town just beginning life, who often from too great ardor, industry, and too vehement a desire of success in their trade or craft, fall sick, get in debt to landlords, physicians, nurses, and finally abandon themselves to drinking and vice and debauchery. These young men the Hospital would save. There proper care would be taken of them, and they would be restored to their occupations free from debt and disease and distress of mind. We solicit from you contributions for the sake of those persons whose sufferings cannot now be doubted, whose health and morals are now often wasted and destroyed, and of whom many were born to be good fathers and brothers and citizens. As they now live and suffer and perish, it rarely falls to your lot to be able to succour and comfort them. But we offer you in the Hospital a means of exercising those charitable propensities with which most men are endued, and as you cannot doubt but that there is a great deal of suffering and sickness of which you never hear and which is never relieved, you may fail to perform those duties which your religion, reason and humanity enjoin upon you, in listening with indifference to a charitable appeal, pure and unexceptionable in its objects and manner of dispensation.

Though the Trustees have appropriated six beds to

poor patients, they possess at this time no funds to provide for that expense, but they have thought proper to do it in a just expectation that the Hospital would be remunerated by the generosity of the public. The claims of the poor where they become known are irresistible. They are always assisted, but often improperly and at great expense. The Hospital furnishes just the assistance which is needed and at a cheap rate. Twenty persons subscribing only five dollars each, will enable the Trustees to appropriate such accommodations to the poor as to relieve and cure upon an average fifteen patients throughout the year. Surely this is a small sacrifice for the suffering which it always mitigates, and for the virtue and morality which it often preserves.

Though medicines and medical advice are always given and administered free from charge, by which arrangement more than two thirds of the whole expense of most fits of sickness will be saved, it is nevertheless true that the Hospital offers peculiar advantages to those who require surgical operations. The most wealthy individual in this town cannot obtain in his own house the comforts and conveniences which every man possesses in this particular at the Hospital. There is a room expressly prepared for this purpose, with a light adapted to surgical operations, and in case of accident or emergency, there are instruments, dressings, medicines and skilful attendants, all within call and reach of the operator. And also in case of pain or accident following an operation there is always a Physician in the place ready to administer relief both day and night. This is a privilege not enjoyed in private houses. The success of many operations, particularly those of the eye, depends upon the attention, exactness and constancy with which the patient is watched and nursed. Different difficult operations have already been performed with perfect success. The Trustees consider this the most favorable arrangement in the Hospital, and one upon which great value deserves to be placed. No

expense whatever attends the most complicated and protracted ones. And it is a consideration which deserves great weight that many of these operations performed in a private house would absorb many months earnings of the most industrious men.

The situation of the Hospital as well as the Asylum for the Insane allows it to be approached by water by all the New England States which border upon the ocean—Patients have already been received not only from the State of Maine, but from New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and even from Vermont, and many from the interior of our own state.

The Trustees are desirous to make the Institution well known throughout this Commonwealth, and to offer all its advantages to persons in the country for whose use it was always intended. They believe that it would be found truly useful to that class of invalids, who are afflicted with long standing and painful complaints, considered as incurable and who look only to death for a release from their sufferings. Many of those maladies might be cured at once by a surgical operation, which, it often happens, no professional man is willing to undertake in the country and which indeed require such expensive apparatus as can be found only in large public establishments.

The Trustees are not distinctly aware that any disadvantageous or unfounded impressions exist in the minds of any portion of the community in relation to the Hospital and though the purpose of this address is to present a brief statement of the present condition of that Institution, yet they are desirous that the public should be possessed of a full and exact knowledge of its objects and merits. All persons, whatever may be their situation, who employ Physicians, must depend for their safety upon the humanity and integrity of the practitioner; but those in a Hospital have the additional security of being protected by that regard that almost every man has to his own reputation. Doubtless all honorable Physicians, though in reality they are governed by much loftier considerations, neverthe-

less derive great satisfaction from a successful practice ; but if a Physician should be utterly destitute of honor, integrity and humanity and should consider a human body merely as a subject of operation and experiment, what patients would he be most likely to select for those purposes? Certainly it is reasonable to suppose that he would select patients who were only seen by a few friends, entirely ignorant of the medical art, to whom no other Physician could have access and upon whom experiments and operations could be repeated till the unhappy person was relieved from this cruelty and persecution by death, which, as it is a common incident of sickness, would awaken no other emotions than those of grief and sorrow. In all other walks of life we find men carefully choosing the greatest secrecy and privacy for the commission of crimes. And certainly it is not reasonable to suppose that a public Hospital would be selected for these wicked and inhuman practices. Not an operation is performed but in the presence of many individuals—Not a medicine prepared but by a written prescription, which is placed upon record—Not a patient remains in the Hospital who is not seen and personally examined by a Committee of the Trustees once every week. Every stage of the disease, every medical application, every change of food is noted in a book, and these are kept for the inspection of the Board of Visitors, of the Trustees, and of the public. If Physicians or Surgeons should perform wanton and cruel experiments and operations under such circumstances, it can only be when they, the Trustees and the Medical Students have entered into a base and unprincipled conspiracy and combination against the lives of suffering and confiding patients, against the sacred trust over which they have been publicly placed, and against the rights and feelings of the humane and benevolent.

Under this part of the address, it may be mentioned with great propriety, that the Hospital will be useful to those young men who are preparing for the practice of medicine. It has not often been thought

necessary to say much in defence of education in a country, which has in reality no other constitution and bill of rights than that public opinion which is preserved, fortified and purified by education, and upon which depend the value and security of all lives, all liberty and all property. But those of our young men, who have had the means to undertake such an expense, have heretofore gone to the southern cities or to European ones for medical instruction. And it is at once apparent that possessing a Medical School in the bosom of our own land will spare much expense to those who are affluent, and will enable many more, who are not so, to obtain a good education. Medicine and surgery least of all the learned professions can be learnt in books. They require practice and observation of living subjects. The Hospital offers to the eye of the students under the direction of a skilful professor a great variety of diseases and complaints and in a great variety of stages. What, therefore, is the consequence? Young men are sent forth into the sea-port and interior towns acquainted from personal observation with the nature of diseases; and those Physicians, to whom necessity compels us to entrust the lives of our wives and children, do not witness patients for the first time in our chambers nor apply their first remedies to those whose health is so precious to us. We have established Botanical Gardens to instruct students in the art of discriminating those plants which may be useful in sickness—Shall we not establish a Hospital to instruct the same students in the art of discriminating those diseases to which these plants may be applied? Many of our young men pass months at great expense in foreign Hospitals for the purpose of studying those maladies to which the human body is subject. Is it not better that our own country should furnish them with the facility and advantage of acquiring a knowledge of those diseases with which our climate is beset and which perhaps in every other climate present many shades of difference and require a peculiarity of treatment.

Every medical man in this state has upon an average the care of the sick in every eight hundred persons, and it appears to be an irresistible conclusion that in proportion as medical education is obtained, health in others will be enjoyed and money saved. No tax is paid with so much cheerfulness in this Commonwealth as that for education, and most people are willing to contribute large sums of money for good instructors for their children. It would therefore seem truly inconsistent and unaccountable that the sick should not be aware of the advantages of having well educated Physicians, and that those who are now well should not be willing to pay a small tax for the sake of having a man well acquainted with the medical art to take care of them when they are sick. In consequence of this arrangement the Trustees have been enabled to obtain the gratuitous services of Physicians and Surgeons amongst the most eminent in their profession.

The Asylum for the Insane stands in Charlestown, upon one of the most beautiful spots in the vicinity of Boston. It was formerly the estate of a gentleman of great wealth in this town and was purchased by him on account of the salubrity of the air and the extent and variety of the view. The Trustees have however to lament the same want of funds in the Asylum as in the Hospital. They have not yet been enabled to receive any free patients and though the board has been fixed as low as the income of the Asylum could allow, several patients have been withdrawn on account of the expense. This circumstance has awakened the deepest regret. And as it is now well ascertained that insanity is a curable complaint, requiring the mildest and most uniform treatment continued in obstinate cases for a course of many months, and as it cannot be doubted but that the greatest degree of suffering is experienced not only by those, who are afflicted with this dreadful disease, but by all connected with such persons when living in private houses in want of comforts, attendants and often subjected to fatal and cruel restraints, the Trustees indulge strong hopes of receiving

sufficient subscriptions to enable them to support poor patients in the Asylum. It may be remarked here with great propriety that the Attendants in the Asylum are selected with the utmost care and circumspection. The principle of the system of treatment being to employ a mild, gentle and most especially a uniform course of conduct, it is particularly important that those, who have the constant and immediate care of the patients, should possess amiable dispositions and soundness and maturity of judgment. All the Attendants have been selected with a particular reference to those qualities; they have been persons from the country whose characters were well known; and in general they have been employed in keeping schools.

The Trustees earnestly recommend to the careful attention of the reader the report of Dr. Wyman, with which they shall conclude this part of the address.

“The Physician and Superintendant would respectfully submit to the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital a few remarks upon the state of the Asylum, during the first triennial term, including also the quarter year commencing October 1st, 1818.

The opening of a public institution for the management and cure for lunatics was the commencement of an experiment, untried in New England. Although some medical gentlemen had acquired reputation in curing insanity, yet in this part of our country the disease had been generally believed to be incurable. Lunatics have, therefore, been most commonly doomed to long and severe confinement to secure them and their friends from personal violence. Many, who have adopted a more correct opinion, have been deterred from sending from home their lunatic friends by a belief that harsh and severe treatment, exciting fear and terror, would be thought most beneficial. It is too true, that such treatment, in time not long past, has been approved and often advised by medical men. An entire revolution of opinion, respecting the treatment

of lunatics, has been produced. This change of opinion is pervading the public mind; but its progress is slow.

Under these circumstances, the number of boarders in the infancy of the Institution was not expected to be large. It was foreseen, that those lunatics, who had exhausted the patience of their friends by the long continuance and severity of their maladies, would be the subjects first to be received. Until the Institution had acquired age and the confidence of the public, it was not to be expected that persons becoming insane would be sent immediately to the Asylum.

From October 1st, 1818, when the Asylum was first opened for the reception of boarders, to December 31st, 1821, there have been received:

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Unfit subjects, - - -	2	1	3
Recent cases, - - -	29	21	50
Old cases, - - -	65	31	96
Total, - - -	96	53	149

Unfit subjects were persons not insane. In recent cases, insanity had existed less than one year, and in old cases, the patient had been insane for one or more years.

From October 1st, 1818, to December 31st, 1821, there have been removed:

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Unfit, - - - -	1	2	3
Eloped, - - -	5	1	6
Died, - - - -	5	4	9
By request, - -	18	11	29
Improved, - - -	17	6	23
Much improved, -	12	7	19
Cured, - - - -	22	10	32
Total, - - - -	80	41	121
Remain, - - - -	16	12	28

Died of Hydrocephelus, 2. Consumption, 2. Sud-

denly, 1. Apoplexy, 1. Inflammation of lungs, 1. Abstinence, 1. And one other, who died *in two days after being received of inflammation of the brain.*— Total, 9.

Of those who have been encouraged to seek relief for their friends in this Asylum a great proportion have supposed, that a few days or weeks were quite sufficient to determine the probability of cure. Perceiving no improvement in so short a time, and fearing the accumulation of expense, they have abandoned the use of means, and trusted to the efforts of nature for the termination of a disease the most dreadful and the most humiliating. These efforts are necessarily counteracted at home by confinement in small apartments, which no ordinary attention can render clean and warm, or supply with pure air. From this mistake in the necessary time and this fear of expense, the usual term of residence of boarders at the Asylum little accords with the customary periods in other Institutions. The whole number removed is 121, of these, remained in the Asylum,

From 2 to 28 days, - - - - -	13
“ 1 to 3 months, - - - - -	61
“ 4 to 6 “ - - - - -	20
“ 7 to 10 “ - - - - -	19
“ 11 to 13 “ - - - - -	8
Total, - - - - -	121

It is asserted by a late writer,* (A. D. 1817,) “that as many lunatics were discharged from the French Hospitals cured in the second and succeeding years, as were recovered the *first year of trial*. The report made to the General Committee of the French Hospitals and published by authority verifies this statement. Dr. Esquirol too reports, that, of 2804 lunatics admitted into La Salpetriere between the years 1804 and 1813, 604 were cured in the first year, 502 in the second, 86 in the third, and 41 in the fourth year.” Thence Dr. Esquirol determines, “that the

* Dr. G. M. Burrows' Inquiry, &c. page 142.

medium term of cure is little less than a year; but that no period should permit of despair of recovery."

In forming an estimate of the utility of this Institution, and ascertaining the proportion of cures, it is very obvious, that the unfit subjects and those who eloped should be taken from the whole number. It should also be considered that some boarders, who had eloped from their friends, have been sent to the Asylum as a place of safe keeping, until a convenient opportunity to remove them home should be offered. For others, the establishment has been considered a comfortable winter residence, where the boarders would enjoy the benefits of apartments well warmed, well ventilated, and free from the dangers of fire, which could not be provided in a private house without great expense. Of 149 boarders received, 3 were not considered insane, and discharged accordingly. 96 had been subjects of insanity from 1 to 24 years, and in nearly the whole of the remaining 50, insanity had existed from 3 to 12 months. Of 121 removed, only 8 resided here 11 months, which is less than the average term of cure in Paris, as stated by Dr. Esquirol. Those removed by request (29) were not improved. Those improved (23) and those much improved (19) were also taken away by request of their friends, who believed they had recovered so much as to be manageable at home, and that a cure would be completed without additional expense. Of these, 6 continued to improve, and recovered in a few weeks. They and others would have been added to the number of cured, had they remained at the Asylum a reasonable time. Many, however, ceased to improve at home, and some relapsed into their former states of disease.

It is believed the public have much to learn respecting lunatics—that insanity is curable—that a few weeks or months are not sufficient for a reasonable trial—that medical treatment and moral management are both important in all cases—that absence from home is always indispensable—that a lunatic at home perceives he is watched and followed in every move-

ment, and deems every restraint to be an act of tyranny and usurpation; producing hatred towards nearest relatives and dearest friends—that the amusements provided in establishments for lunatics, as draughts, chess, backgammon, nine pins, swinging, sawing wood, gardening, reading, writing, music, &c. divert the attention from unpleasant subjects of thought, and afford exercise both of body and mind—that even the conversation of lunatics with each other, in some cases, convinces them of the absurdity of their opinions and produces a cure—that lunatics very soon and almost insensibly conform to the rules and regulations which they perceive to be observed by their fellow boarders—that regularity in the time and manner of taking food and using exercise, retiring to bed and rising at seasonable hours, observing the restraints imposed for acts of violence, feeling a necessity of conducting with propriety, living under a system of rules and regulations for every thing, have a powerful effect in tranquilizing the mind, breaking up wrong associations of ideas, and inducing correct habits of thinking as well as acting; and finally, that lunatics are not insensible to kind treatment, that whips and chains are forever banished from every well regulated Asylum for the Insane, and that kindness and humanity have succeeded to severity and cruelty.

The Trustees may feel assured that the attendants are entitled to much credit for their kindness and attention to the boarders under their care.

I am, &c.

RUFUS WYMAN.

The Trustees now offer to those disposed to aid and promote the valuable objects of the Massachusetts General Hospital the two following schemes of subscription:

First—A subscription of one hundred dollars and upwards constituting the subscriber a member of the corporation, and *second*, an annual subscription of five dollars. The Trustees likewise subjoin the form of bequest to this Institution, “I give and bequeath to the Massachusetts General Hospital in the City of Boston the sum of dollars or the estate or the property.”

Every bequest shall be sacredly appropriated in exact conformity to the will or wishes of the testator. Charitable establishments in a country in which most men are engaged in some profession or occupation and stand in need of all their capital, depend with great reason, fitness and safety upon this source of patronage. Most institutions in England as well Hospitals as Poor Houses have been endowed and supported by the legacies of charitable persons.

The Trustees once more recommend this important subject to the attentive consideration of the public. The Hospital and the Asylum for the Insane are in excellent order and those parts, which are finished, in perfect operation. They have been erected at a great expense; but upon every consideration of just economy and of true benevolence, it was thought proper and expedient that an Institution, which was intended to be an ornament to New England for many ages to come and at all times a means of relief and succour to the distressed in body or in mind, should be spacious, uniting every possible comfort and convenience, substantial, and built of materials, that would last to the most distant posterity.

It is for the purpose of finishing the interior of the buildings and of making such arrangements concerning the grounds as the object and beauty of the Institution require that the Trustees are led, in connection

with the other important objects of this address, to solicit donations and subscriptions at this time from the public. Again, we intreat those, who have doubts concerning the utility of the Institution or who may be disposed to assist it, to come and visit the Hospital, to examine the proceedings of its Trustees and Physicians, and to inspect the wards and visit the sick with our Committees.

JOSEPH MAY,
 GAMALIEL BRADFORD,
 RICHARD SULLIVAN,
 EBENEZER FRANCIS,
 JOSEPH COOLIDGE,
 JONATHAN PHILLIPS,
 JOSEPH HEAD,
 SAMUEL APPLETON,
 THOMAS W. WARD,
 JOHN BELKNAP,
 DANIEL P. PARKER,
 THEODORE LYMAN, JUN.

} Trustees.

Massachusetts General Hospital, March, 1822.

APPENDIX.....No. 1.

THE following statement of the pecuniary concerns of the Massachusetts General Hospital, from the commencement to the present period, is respectfully submitted to the Trustees. Donations to the Institution have been received under three limitations, and great care has been taken in the Treasury Books to keep each class distinct so as to meet the intentions of the benefactors.

One portion of them was bestowed subject to the disposition of the Trustees:.....viz.

The Province House and Lands, valued at	\$40,000 00
A House and Land in Boylston Court, valued at	6,000 00
Six shares in the Worcester Turnpike, which at the time were valued at \$900, but are not now worth more than	200 00
One share in the Athenæum, valued at	200 00
Donations in money, amounting to	28,199 87.....
Another portion was bestowed exclusively for the use and benefit of the Massachusetts General Hospital.....viz.	74,599 87
Donations in money, amounting to	-
The other portion was bestowed for the use of the Asylum for the Insane.....viz.	-
Donations in money, amounting to	-
Whole amount	73,809 29

Donations in money, amounting to	-
Whole amount	53,997 47
	\$202,406 63

Of these donations in money, there have been expended, as follows:

For the purchase of land in Boston, and for the erection of the General Hospital, the sum of	- - - - -	\$94,352 29
For the purchase of land and buildings in Charlestown, and for the erection of other buildings as an Asylum for the Insane, the sum of	- - - - -	89,821 16
Whole amount expended	- - - - -	<u>\$184,173 45</u>

Property belonging to the Corporation, and remaining at the disposition of the Trustees:

The Province House, as an annuity fund, estimated at \$40,000.....	Annual income.....	2,000 00
House in Boylston Court,	“ “ “	6,000 “
Worcester Turnpike Shares,	“ “ “	200 “
Share in the Athenæum,	“ “ “	200 “
		<u>\$46,400</u>
		<u>\$2,412 00</u>

The following sums have been borrowed, and are now due from the Corporation.....viz.

To the Provident Institution,	- - - - -	\$12,000 00
“ Mrs. Mary Hall,	- - - - -	700 00
“ the Executors of the estate of Thomas Oliver, deceased,	- - - - -	400 00
“ Joseph Coolidge, Esquire,	- - - - -	2,750 00
“ Mrs. M. A. Cary,	- - - - -	1,000 00
“ Ebenezer Francis, Esquire,	- - - - -	3,000 00
		<u>\$19,850 00</u>

It will be perceived that the annual income of the property of the Corporation, after deducting interest on money borrowed, is not sufficient to pay the salaries of the Superintendants.

NATH'L P. RUSSELL, *Treasurer.*

BOSTON, MARCH 14, 1822.

APPENDIX.....No. 2.

STATEMENT of the annual expenditure at the Hospital :

Superintendant,	-	-	-	-	-	\$500 00
Wages,	-	-	-	-	-	616 00
Furniture,	-	-	-	-	-	240 00
Stores,	-	-	-	-	-	1,560 00
Stationary,	-	-	-	-	-	60 00
Fuel,	-	-	-	-	-	560 00
Contingencies,	-	-	-	-	-	150 00
						<hr/>
						\$3,686 00
						1,850 00
						<hr/>
						\$1,836 00

Credit.....By Board,

\$1,836.....The whole present expense of the Hospital.

N. B.....As the Hospital has been in operation only since the first day of last September, this statement is made in some degree by approximation. It is evident that in proportion as the boarders increase, the expenses of each will be diminished.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures of the Asylum for the Insane, from the opening of the Institution in September 1818 to the first day of January 1822.

<i>Dr.</i>		ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.		<i>Cr.</i>
1818, } To Expenses before opening } \$153 73	1821, } the Asylum, } 531 24	1821, } By Boarder, over- } 00 50		
Sept. 30, }	Dec. 31, }	paid, }		
		Cash of Treas. }	4,257 14	\$4,257 64
1821, } " Contingencies, - - - - -		" " Farm, - - - - -		494 66
Dec. 31, }	" Fuel (4 years), - - - - -	" " Board, - - - - -		14,314 78
" "	" Stationary, - - - - -	" " Funerals, - - - - -		17 00
" "	" Stores, - - - - -			
" "	" Wages, - - - - -			
" "	" Medicines,* - - - - -			
" "	" Furniture, - - - - -			
" "	" Clothing, - - - - -			
" "	" Finishing and Improving } 3,339 92			
	Buildings, &c. }			
" "	Balance, - - - - -			1,217 39
				<u>\$19,084 08</u>
				<u>\$19,084 08</u>
		1822, } Balance, - - - - -		\$1,217 39
		Jan. 1, }		

* Medicines are debtor to two donations, viz.
 Medicine and Instruments, \$115 00
 Cabinet for do. 200 00
 \$315 00

N. B. To these expenditures should be added the Salary of the Superintendent at the rate of \$1,500 a year.

